

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE 162149Z NOV 71 SENSITIVE EYES ONLY

VIA BUNKER CHANNELS

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER

TO: AMBASSADOR BUNKER

CITE: WHS1131

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DELIVER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS

1971 NOV 6 22 27

THE PRESIDENT IS NOW CONTEMPLATING MAKING NEXT TROOP WITHDRAWAL ON EITHER FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12 OR ALTERNATIVELY ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15. VENUE WILL PROBABLY BE INFORMAL PRESS CONFERENCE IN HIS OFFICE WHICH WILL TOUCH UPON OTHER ISSUES AS WELL. ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE CONSISTENT WITH THAT MENTIONED TO YOU BY HAIG DURING HIS RECENT VISIT. IT WOULD BE LIMITED TO COVER TWO MONTH PERIOD AND INCLUDE A STEPUP IN WITHDRAWAL RATE FROM CURRENT AVERAGE TO 20,000 PER MONTH DURING DECEMBER AND JANUARY. YOU WILL RECALL HAIG ALSO MENTIONED THIS CONCEPT TO THIEU WHILE AVOIDING REFERENCE TO SPECIFIC RATES OF WITHDRAWAL AND MERELY STATING IT WOULD REPRESENT SOME INCREASE IN CURRENT RATES. I WILL KEEP YOU POSTED AS PLANS THIS WEEK BECOME FIRM.

WE HAVE NOTED SOME PRESS SPECULATION IN WAKE OF SECRETARY LAIRD'S VISIT WHICH SUGGESTS EVERYTHING FROM FINAL DEADLINE TO STEPPED UP WITHDRAWAL TO TRANSITIONAL FORCES. I KNOW YOU WILL EXERCISE MAXIMUM DISCIPLINE IN SAIGON TO PREVENT SPECULATION BY EITHER EMBASSY OR MILITARY PERSONNEL UP TO THE TIME OF THE PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT.

WARM REGARDS

YK

BT

HPQEE

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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